

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/09742

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ C12M3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ C12M1/00-3/10

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 11-290059 A (Masashi FUNAYAMA),	17, 19, 20
Y	26 October, 1999 (26.10.99),	18
A	(Family: none)	1-16
Y	WO 99/34202 A1 (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.),	18
	08 July, 1999 (08.07.99),	
	& EP 1040345 A1 & JP 11-187865 A	
A	JP 7-256141 A (Ebara Research Co., Ltd.),	1-16
	09 October, 1995 (09.10.95),	
	(Family: none)	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
05 November, 2003 (05.11.03)

Date of mailing of the international search report
18 November, 2003 (18.11.03)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
(See extra sheet.)

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box No.II of continuation of first sheet(1)

According to the statement in the description of the present case, it is recognized that the inventions as set forth in claims 1 to 16 relate to an automatic culture apparatus wherein environmental factors of culture conditions such as pressure can be arbitrarily and automatically controlled appropriately for the progress of the culture by convenient and efficient procedures with easy maintenance operations in an extremely clean environment while needing neither any special aseptic design nor any skilled and limited persons, thereby enabling prolonged culture.

On the other hand, it is recognized that the inventions as set forth in claims 17 to 20 relate to a culture apparatus having a measurement unit by which the quantity and/or quality of cells or a tissue with a biological origin can be noninvasively and three-dimensionally analyzed and measured.

Therefore, it can be said that the inventions as set forth in claims 1 to 16 and the inventions as set forth in claims 17 to 20 are common to each other in the point of being a culture apparatus.

However, culture apparatuses had been well known before the priority date of the present case. Therefore, the inventions as set forth in claims 1 to 16 and the inventions as set forth in claims 17 to 20 cannot be considered as having any technical feature in common making a contribution over the prior art. Also, these groups of inventions are not considered as being a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept.

Such being the case, it is concluded that the present case has 2 groups of inventions, i.e., the inventions as set forth in claims 1 to 16 and the inventions as set forth in claims 17 to 20.